

News from Ed Markey

United States Congress

Massachusetts Seventh District

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MARKEY ANNOUNCES PASSAGE OF “DOT KIDS” LEGISLATION

New Domain Name Will Provide “Safe Playground” For Children on the Internet

Washington D.C.— U.S. Representative Edward J. Markey (D-MA), ranking member on the House Subcommittee on Telecommunications and the Internet, today announced the final passage of the “Dot Kids Implementation and Efficiency Act,” H.R. 3833. Rep. Markey is the lead Democratic co-sponsor of the bill, which was introduced along with Rep. John Shimkus (R-IL). The House originally approved this bill back in May by a vote of 406 to 2. After the Senate passed a slightly amended version earlier this week, the House approved the same measure late last night and it will now be sent to President Bush for his signature.

Rep Markey stated, “As many parents today know, the Internet often appears to be a veritable jungle of web sites. When a child logs on to search for games, stories, or educational material, search engines often turn up pages for the kids laden with pornography violence or other content that is simply not appropriate for young children. This new law will give children their own playground on the Internet, and will facilitate the easier browsing and filtering of content that many parents desire.”

This new law directs the Department of Commerce, through the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) to accelerate the creation of a “dot kids” domain by making it a secondary domain under our nations country code top level domain, which is “dot U.S.” The Department of Commerce awarded a contract last October to authorize private sector management and commercialization of “dot U.S.” H.R. 3833 will create a place on the Internet for websites that end in “dot kids-dot U.S.” The proposed “dot kids” domain will be a cyberspace sanctuary for content suitable for kids under 13 and will be an area devoid of content that is harmful to such minors.

“What is essentially being proposed is the creation of a place on the Internet for websites that end in “dot kids-dot U.S.” (e.g. www.example.kids.us) The proposed “dot kids” domain will be a cyberspace sanctuary for content that is suitable for kids and will be an area devoid of content that is harmful to such minors,” concluded Rep. Markey.

You may go to www.house.gov/markey for more information on this and other subjects.

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